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to you from Skernolis
Maryland

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(Red)

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
201 WEST PRESTON STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201 • Area Code 301 • 383-3123

TTY FOR DEAF: Balto. 383-7555
D.C. Metro. 565-0451

Charles R. Buck, Jr., Sc.D. Secretary

William M. Eichbaum, Assistant Secretary

July 20, 1983

Mr. Edmund Skernolis
United States Environmental Protection
Agency
Region III
Sixth and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. Skernolis:

I am in receipt of your recent correspondence relative to "EPA's Understanding of the Decision Process" when reviewing results from our joint, recently conducted Dioxin investigation. As discussed and concluded by phone, we generally agree with the content of the three contingency action plans however, we would like to recommend the following modifications.

- 1) When results other than negative are received, it is our belief that a copy of such should be transmitted to us as soon as possible for review, so that a concurrent QA-QC can be executed.
- 2) When negative results are received, we do not believe that a concurrent QA-QC is necessary, but as soon as possible would like to receive a copy of such results for our files.
- 3) Because of the sensitivity of this issue, and since it appears that CDC's conclusions are obtainable in a relatively short time period, we believe that information should not be released to the public until CDC has provided us with the benefit of their thinking.
- 4) Probably, it does not have to be said, but we believe that in this matter, extremely close coordination is paramount between our respective public relations offices.



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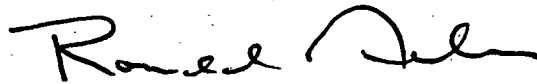
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Mr. Edmund Skernolis
Page Two

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the extensive up front coordination with my staff regarding all facets of this survey, which in our opinion has resulted in a very smooth exercise.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald Nelson, Director
Waste Management Administration

RN:d1

cc: Mr. John Koontz
Mr. Arthur Caple